

"Living in the Light"
John 8:12-30

Five definitions of "follow me".

1. A soldier following his captain.

"Behold I give to you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19

"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." Luke 9:1, 2

2. A slave accompanying his master.
3. A person following the counsel of a wise teacher
4. A citizen obeying the laws of their king
5. A person who lives out the practical implications of that belief on the daily basis of practical life events.

Principle: When we walk in the light, we love others.

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:5-7

"Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing that makes him stumble." 1 John 2:9,10

"Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 John 4:7, 8, 21

Misconceptions about love:

1. Love is a feeling.
2. Love is uncontrollable

What is love?

1. Love is a choice

"And over all these put on love which binds them together." Colossians 3:14

2. Love is a conduct.

"Let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and truth." 1 John 3:18

How can we learn to love?

1. We must learn to love those who are close to us.
2. We must learn to love those who are different from us.
3. We must learn to love those who disagree with us.
4. We must learn to love those who irritate us.

How can we love someone we don't like?

1. Experience God's love yourself.

"I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your heart, living within you as you trust Him. May your roots go deep into the soil of God's marvelous love, and may you be able to feel and understand how long, wide, deep and high His love really is, and experience this love for yourselves." Ephesians 3:17, 18

"Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

2. Forgive others who have hurt you.

"Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

3. Think loving thoughts.

"Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others too, and in what they are doing. Your attitude should be the same kind that was shown to us by Jesus Christ." Philippians 2:4, 5

4. Act in a loving way

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27, 28

Do four things to people who have hurt you:

1. Love them

"Be patient with each other, making allowances for each other because of your love." Ephesians 4:2

2. Do good

3. Bless those who curse you

4. Pray for those who mistreat you

5. Expect the best of others

6. Love people now

"God, help me to experience Your love. To feel it, not just to know about it, but to really feel it. To feel love and secure in that love. God, help me to realize how much I matter to You so I can give love away. Help me to forgive those who've hurt me. Today, I want to release them. I want to let go.

Lord, I want to forgive them as much as You've forgiven me. Help me to think loving thoughts, to look beyond their hurtful attitude and look at how they're hurting, to see their needs, their hurts, their pain, their fears, their insecurities, their guilt, their worries. Help me to not minimize those, but to be sympathetic and to think loving thoughts. Father, help me to begin acting in a loving way. Even though I don't feel like it today, when I go home, I want to act in a loving way. Help me to do good and to bless and to pray for those who hurt me, to be an actor not a reactor. Help me to expect the best from others, to believe in them, so that I might walk in the light as you are the Light. Amen."